

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ABEL MALDONADO

For Immediate Release: August 23, 2010

Contact: Erin Shaw

Erin.Shaw@ltg.ca.gov ; (916) 203-1278

Lt. Governor Maldonado Supports Legislation To Reduce Government Waste, Increase Transparency, And Strengthen Local Economies

SACRAMENTO – Following his commitment to be a taxpayer watchdog and work towards sustainable economic growth, Lt. Governor Maldonado today announced his support for four key pieces of legislation that will increase transparency and regulation of local government compensation; authorize the recovery of unlawful unemployment insurance benefits from former elected officials; reduce the number of ‘unbanked’ Californians by establishing banking institutions in underserved areas; and creates a fully-funded grant program to provide job training in the clean tech sector to at-risk youth.

“Now, more than ever, Californians deserve to know that their taxpayer dollars are being put to their highest and best use. I am the eyes and ears on the first floor of the Capitol and I strongly support efforts to rid government of waste,” said Lt. Governor Maldonado. “We must help get Californians back to work and jumpstart California’s local economies, which means supporting seemingly small, but important initiatives like incentivizing job training resources, and providing basic financial and investment resources to those areas that need it most.”

AB 1955 – Increasing Transparency And Regulation Of Local Government Compensation

AB 1955, authored by Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-Southgate), upholds existing law that cities must comply with statutory compensation limits, and authorizes the Attorney General to define charter cities that exceed those limits as “excess compensation cities”. Further, should the Attorney General define a city as an “excess compensation city”, AB 1955 mandates that the Attorney General notify the city council and provide a hearing allowing city officials to explain publicly why they have exceeded the compensation limits.

SB 1211 - Authorizes Recovery Of Unlawful Unemployment Insurance Benefits From Elected Officials

SB 1211, authored by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles) and Senate Republican Leader-elect Bob Dutton (R-Rancho Cucamonga), will further slash government waste by authorizing the California Employment Development Department to recover overpayments of unemployment insurance benefits that has been unlawfully paid to elected officials. The bill would clarify that an elected official is ineligible for unemployment benefits based on the income he or she earned as an elected official and any benefits paid based upon that income shall be identified as an overpayment, and subject to recovery.

AB 2581 – Reducing Number Of ‘Unbanked’ Californians By Establishing Banking Institutions In Underserved Areas

During Lt. Governor Maldonado’s first full convening of the California Commission for Economic Development, he publicly supported AB 2581, authored by Assemblymember Steven Bradford (D-Gardenia), which would create the Banking Development Districts program. By coordinating state and local incentives to encourage banking institutions to open in underserved areas in California that lack mainstream financial institutions, more California families will have access to basic banking services. Currently, many ‘unbanked’ Californians are paying extra for basic resources such as checking accounts. By using a mainstream banking institution and receiving basic banking resources for free, they now have the opportunity to reinvest that money in their local economy or plan for their own future financial security.

SB 675 - Creates A Grant Program For Job Training In The Clean Tech Sector To At-Risk Youth

With California’s unemployment rate hovering at 12 percent, Lt. Governor Maldonado has been focused on ensuring that Californians have access to specialized job training – a critical component to California’s recovery. SB 675, authored by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), would provide critically needed career technical training to at-risk youth, bolstering their opportunity to secure work in the growing clean-tech sector and reducing the number of student drop outs. Specifically, Steinberg’s Energy Job Training, Clean Technology and Renewable Energy Job Training, Career Technical Education, and Dropout Prevention Act of 2010 would:

- Establish a fund to provide competitive grants to create job training facilities that will provide program participants with the skills and expertise to enter into the green workforce.
- Establishes a Council that will administer the Fund, create competitive criteria to evaluate applicants, and ensure the program maintains relevant industry needs and partners with higher education institutions as needed.

Lt. Governor Maldonado served as member of the California State Assembly and the California State Senate before being nominated by Governor Schwarzenegger and confirmed by the Legislature at California’s 47th Lt. Governor.

###